

Dear readers,

Welcome to the third issue of IAPA in 2017. I am very pleased to report that we have just been allocated a new impact factor by Clarivate analytics, formerly Thomson Reuters, Journal Citation Report (JCR). This has increased from 1.0 in the previous period to over 1.6 now. This is great news as it means that the visibility and impact of the journal along with that of the work published in it has and is continuing to grow.

In April this year, the 37th annual meeting of IAIA was held in Montreal and attended by over 1,000 participants from throughout the world. The conference theme was ‘Impact Assessment’s Contribution to the Global Efforts in Addressing Climate Change’. Having an IAIA meeting organised around this theme is of great importance in the current post-truth era where, on the one hand, evidence of human induced climate change is stronger than ever before, and, on the other, climate change deniers – choosing to ignore experts and evidence – are given important government responsibilities (often in environment ministries and departments), in countries throughout the world. Tragically, Montreal experienced some severe flooding just a week after the meeting was concluded and a state of emergency was declared.

On a positive note, the Canadian government (opposite to its southern and – somewhat more remote – eastern neighbours) now appears to be rediscovering the great value inherent in impact assessment. Once again, it is considering it to be more than a tool that just aims at enabling development (as it was increasingly seen here) to one that can pro-actively support devising policies, plans, programmes and projects that are more sustainable. It’ll be very interesting to follow this development further.

This issue of IAPA starts with a seminal piece of work which, if it was a conference paper would undoubtedly be called a ‘key-note’. It is a paper by the late Charlie Wolf (1933-2015), one of the founding fathers of IAIA, called ‘What is Impact Assessment? Some Personal Reflections’. As the author hadn’t been able to completely finish the paper, Adrian Hayes (Australian National University), subsequently edited it to get it into a fully publishable state.

The other six papers of this issue report on scoping practices in Brazil (Rossana Borioni, Amarilis Lucia Casteli Figueiredo Gallardo & Luis Enrique Sánchez), EIA screening (Caroline Priscila Fan Rocha & Alberto Fonseca), the Sami people's cultural heritage in Swedish EIAs (Ezequiel Pinto-Guillaume), the new EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) and UK water impact assessment practice (Stephen E Mustow), biodiversity offsets in South Africa (Susie Brownlie, Amrei von Hase, Mark Botha, Jeffrey Manuel, Zoe Balmforth & Nicky Jenner), and a methodology for reviewing the quality of strategic environmental assessments in development cooperation (Barry Dalal-Clayton and Barry Sadler). The issue is rounded off by a book review by Jean Hugé on Davide Geneletti’s (ed) ‘Handbook on biodiversity and ecosystem services in impact assessment’.

Can I finally draw your attention to an IAPA call for papers on ‘investigating the use of Strategic Environmental Assessment in the private sector’ (see here:

http://explore.tandfonline.com/pages/cfp/tiap-cfp-sea-2q2017?utm_source=CPB&utm_medium=cms&utm_campaign=JME00984).

Enjoy reading

Thomas Fischer, editor-in-chief